HIE Medicaid Services (HMS): Early Adopters Program

What is the HIE Medicaid Services (HMS) Program?

The HIE Medicaid Services (HMS) Program is a joint effort between the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA) and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Division of Health Benefits (DHB). The goal of this partnership is to leverage NC HealthConnex, North Carolina's state-designated health information exchange, to support NC Medicaid's quality and population health efforts by improving data exchange. Currently, this work focuses on three main use cases:

1. Digital Quality Measures (dQMs)
2. Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Screening
3. Care Management Data

For more information about the program and these use cases, visit our website:
https://hiea.nc.gov/hie-medicaid-services

HMS Early Adopters Program

In order for HMS Program initiatives to be successful, partnering with provider organizations is critical. The HMS Early Adopters Program is a way to support those organizations that are willing to pave the way for others by participating in hands-on work to advance innovation for dQMs and HRSN screening data exchange. This includes time-limited, direct payments to provider organizations paid out upon the completion of agreed-upon technical and workflow milestones for each use case.[1] The goal is to provide flexibility for organizations to determine how best to spend the funds to meet their needs within the established program parameters. Participants will be asked to sign an attestation committing to make good faith efforts to complete all use case activities and engage in ongoing learning collaboratives with NC HIEA and NC Medicaid. The HMS Early Adopters Program is expected to launch in early 2025.

Information about the two use cases, including the requirements to participate, key activities and available funds are described in more detail below. Organizations may be eligible to participate in both use cases simultaneously, if interested.

Digital Quality Measure (dQM) Use Case	
What is the dQM Use Case?	The dQM use case aims to improve the accuracy, timeliness and ease of collecting, calculating and sharing quality measure performance information across sources. The initial focus for this use case is on three priority quality measures: 1. Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP) [NCQA] 2. Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients with Diabetes (GSD) [NCQA]

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[1] Specifics regarding milestones will be discussed in greater detail with eligible participants.

Digital Quality Measure (dQM) Use Case	
	3. Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan (CDF) [CMS] Early adopters of this use case will work on improving the quality of clinical data that is transmitted to NC HealthConnex from their electronic health record (EHR) system(s). This data will be combined with Medicaid claims data to produce more near-real-time quality measure results that can be shared with providers, health plans and NC Medicaid. This data can be beneficial for population health monitoring, care gap closure and quality measure reporting.
What is the value of the dQM Use Case?	1. Alignment with emerging standards 2. Reduction in administrative burden 3. Improvements in interim care gap reporting 4. Enhanced performance in value-based payment arrangements
Who is eligible to participate in the HMS Early Adopters Program, dQM Use Case?	Early adopters of the dQM use case must: 1. Serve NC Medicaid beneficiaries 2. Have a full Participation Agreement with NC HIEA 3. Be connected to NC HealthConnex and actively sending data 4. Collect/document critical data elements relative to the three priority quality measures in the EHR 5. Be willing to engage with EHR vendors to discuss and implement technical upgrades to their system, if applicable 6. Be willing to engage with staff/clinical personnel on workflow changes, as needed
What are the key activities associated with the dQM Use Case?	1. Take an active role in quality improvement initiatives for the three priority quality measures to enhance the quality of critical data elements. This may include technical upgrades and/or strategic workflow changes to drive positive results. 2. Undergo the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Data Aggregator Validation Program.*
What is the timeline for participation?	Organizations will be participating in this use case at their own pace and are expected to remain engaged in quality improvement activities until data quality standards are met for each of the three priority quality measures. Participants are also expected to participate in the annual Data Aggregator Validation Program revalidation process.
How many organizations do we anticipate participating in the HMS Early Adopters Program, dQM Use Case?	We anticipate at least five provider organizations to be successful in technical and workflow implementation by October 1, 2025 and at least five additional provider organizations by October 1, 2026.
What funds are available to support early adopters?	$20,000 total per organization**, including: • $10,000 for initial validation of data stream(s) via NCQA's Data Aggregator Validation Program

Digital Quality Measure (dQM) Use Case	
	• $10,000 for meeting data quality standards via successful workflow and technical implementation for the three priority measures

*At this time, participants will not face any monetary cost for participating in the NCQA Data Aggregator Validation Program.

**Organizations with more than one EHR will receive an additional $10,000 ($5,000 for NCQA's Data Aggregator Validation Program and $5,000 for data quality) once standards are met across all EHRs.

For more detailed information about this use case, see https://hiea.nc.gov/hie-medicaid-services-dqm-use-case-flyer/download?attachment

Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Screening Use Case	
What is the HRSN Screening Use Case?	The HRSN screening use case aims to improve the availability, accuracy and timeliness of NC Medicaid beneficiaries' HRSN screening information across sources. The initial focus is on six of NCDHHS's eleven standardized screening questions covering food, housing/utilities and transportation domains. Organizations will map their HRSN screening questions and patients' responses to the applicable codes defined in the Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) standards and transmit that information to NC HealthConnex. This information will be available for organizations to access via Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) retrieval and the NC HealthConnex Clinical Portal.
What is the value of the HRSN Use Case?	1. Increased access to HRSN screening data 2. Reduction in administrative burden 3. Improvements in patient experience
Who is eligible to participate in the HMS Early Adopters Program, HRSN Screening Use Case?	Early adopters of the HRSN screening use case must: 1. Serve NC Medicaid beneficiaries 2. Have a full Participation Agreement with NC HIEA 3. Be connected to NC HealthConnex and actively sending data 4. Collect and record HRSN screening information in their EHRs 5. Have EHRs or integration engines capable of transmitting LOINC-encoded HRSN screening information to NC HealthConnex
What are the key activities associated with the HRSN Screening Use Case?	Early adopters will be asked to translate their organization's HRSN screening questions and patients' answers into LOINC codes and transmit them to NC HealthConnex via ZPV segments of HL7 v2 Admission, Discharge, and Transfer (ADT) messages. Future phases of this use case may include inclusion of HRSN screening data within Continuity of Care Documents (CCDs).
Do I have to use a specific HRSN	While this use case leverages the NCDHHS standardized screening instrument, this use case does not require providers to use this, or any other, specific screening tool.

Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Screening Use Case	
screening instrument to participate?	
What is the timeline for participation?	The estimated timeline for transmission of HRSN screening data to NC HealthConnex is 3-6 months. However, each organization will participate in this use case at their own pace, which may be longer or shorter than the estimated timeframe above.
How many organizations do we anticipate participating in the HMS Early Adopters Program, HRSN Use Case?	We anticipate at least nine provider organizations to be successful in technical and workflow implementation by October 1, 2025 and at least 12 additional provider organizations by October 1, 2026.
What funds are available to support early adopters?	$11,000 total per organization* will be paid out upon successful, ongoing transmission of HRSN data to NC HealthConnex alongside its regular data submission.

*Organizations with more than one EHR will receive an additional $5,500 for successful, ongoing transmission of HRSN data from all EHRs.

For more information about this use case, see https://hiea.nc.gov/hie-medicaid-services-hrsn-use-case-flyer/download?attachment

Ready to become an early adopter? Fill out this form.
Reach out to us at hms.hiea@nc.gov if you have any questions.